

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 OIC-02 EB-07 AEC-05 SAM-01 /077 W

----- 123082

R 101530Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9508

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: JANUARY 8 EWG MEETING: 1975 AD-70 SPRING REPORT (AGENDA
ITEM IV)

REF: A. STATE 253207 (NOTAL)

B. USNATO 6460

C. STATE 003477 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING JANUARY 8 EWG MEETING, FRG, UK, CANADIAN
AND IS REPS RECOMMENDED ABOLITION OF AD-70 SPRING REPORT. US,
NETHERLANDS, AND NORWEGIAN REPS SUPPORTED REPORT INCLUDING
SUPPORTING PROGRAMS NOT COVERED IN OTHER REPORTS TO MINISTERS.
MILITARY AUTHORITIES STRESSED NECESSITY FOR CONTINUED AD-70
SPRING REPORT, ESPECIALLY SECTION ON FORCE CAPABILITIES. DPC
PERMREPS WILL CONSIDER QUESTION DURING MEETING NEXT WEEK
(TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 16). END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING INTRODUCTORY REMARKS TO JANUARY 8 EWG DISCUSSION OF
1975 AD-70 SPRING REPORT, CHAIRMAN PANSO SPECIFIED TOPICS ON
WHICH DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL RECEIVE REPORTS IN JUNE (MIN-
ISTERIAL GUIDANCE, RATIONALIZATION, STANDARDIZATION, FLEXIBILITY,

INFRASTRUCTURE, NATO FORCE PLANS), CAUTIONED EWG REPS AGAINST DUPLICATING ONGOING STUDY EFFORTS WITH "TOO EXTENSIVE" AN AD-70 REPORT, AND SUGGESTED THAT IS PREPARE PO FOR CIRCULATION BY SYG LUNS WHICH CALLES FOR MUCH SHORTER REPORT THAN PREVIOUS VERSIONS. CANADIAN REP (SHEFFIELD) URGED "SHORTEST POSSIBLE" SPRING REPORT AND RECOMMENDED EWG RECONSIDER WHETHER ANY AD-70 REPORT WAS NEEDED. UK (MACDONALD) AND FRG (GEN SCHUNEMANN) REPS SUPPORTED ELIMINATION OF REPORT IN TOTO.

2. US REP (DR. LEGERE) URGED RETENTION OF SPRING REPORT. HE SAID EWG REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR AD-70 AND BASIC ISSUES, WHICH DEFENSE MINISTERS HAD ASSIGNED, REMAINED FIRM. ITALIAN REP (ADMIRAL MACCHIAVELLI) SUPPORTED US POSITION AND CAUTIONED EWG REPS AGAINST ABOLISHING SPRING REPORT WITHOUT PROVIDING VIABLE SUBSTITUTE. HE SAID ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF AD-70 REPORTS WAS TO PROVIDE MINISTERS WITH ALLIANCE-WIDE PERSPECTIVE ON "BALANCE" BETWEEN SUPPORTING PROGRAMS AND FORCE CAPABILITIES AND THAT AD-70 SPRING REPORTS WERE ONLY EXISTING VEHICLES FOR THIS PURPOSE. NETHERLANDS REP (CARSTEN) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES "WELCOMED" SPRING REPORT COVERAGE OF THOSE AREAS NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER REPORTS. CHAIRMAN PANSALSO ALSO EXPRESSED PERSONAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT ABOLISHING THE REPORT ENTIRELY.

3. MC REP (GEN TOMMASINI) SAID MILITARY AUTHORITIES (MA'S) HAD RELIED ON AD-70 PRIORITIES FOR GENERATING FORCE PROPOSALS AND ASKED WHAT WOULD REPLACE THESE PRIORITIES IF EWG ABOLISHED AD-70 PROGRAM. ASYG HUMPHREYS RESPONDED THAT MA'S SHOULD DERIVE PRIORITIES FROM MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, ADDING THAT MAJOR PROBLEM IN ABOLISHING AD-70 REPORT MIGHT RATHER INVOLVE PROPER COVERAGE FOR SUPPORTING PROGRAMS. US REP SAID MOST RECENT GENERAL REPORT ON NATO FORCE PLAN 1975-1979 COVERED FORCE CAPABILITIES AND THAT EXPANDED MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE MAY REPEAT MAY ADEQUATELY COVER SUPPORTING PROGRAMS, BUT SAID EWG SHOULD CONTINUE AD-70 REPORT COVERAGE OF SUPPORTING PROGRAMS AND BASIC ISSUES FOR 1975 AND RECONSIDER THE NEED FOR SEPARATE AD-70 SPRING REPORT IN 1976. NORWEGIAN REP (LEINE) AGREED THAT IT WAS PREMATURE FOR EWG TO "BURY" AD-70 REPORT
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AT THIS TIME AND RECOMMENDED EWG AND/OR DRC REVIEW MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING EXPANDED MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DURING SPRING MEETINGS.

4. SACLAN REP (CAPT MAYO), SUPPORTED BY SHAPE REP (GEN MILLER), SAID FORCE CAPABILITIES SECTION OF AD-70 REPORT WAS ESSENTIAL TO EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF FORCE PROPOSALS. SHAPE REP SAID MA'S WOULD REVISE/IMPROVE THEIR INPUTS TO AD-70 SPRING REPORT IF EWG DESIRED, BUT THAT AD-70 PROGRAM PROVIDED THE ONLY FORMAL DEVICE BY WHICH MA'S COULD INFORM POLITICAL AUTHORITIES ABOUT MILITARY DEFICIENCIES IN THE ALLIANCE. HE SAID THAT IF EWG ELIMINATED FORCE CAPABILITIES SECTION OF AD-70 SPRING REPORTS, NATO WOULD "NO LONGER HAVE COHESIVE FORCE PLANS."

5. IN SUMMARY REMARKS, CHAIRMAN PANSA SAID EWG CONSENSUS SEEMED TO SUPPORT ABOLITION OF AD-70 SPRING REPORTS WHEN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTES ARE DETERMINED, THAT IS WOULD WRITE PO TO THIS EFFECT FOR CIRCULATION BY SYG LUNS, AND THAT DPC PERMREPS WOULD CONSIDER QUESTION DURING MEETING NEXT WEEK.

6. MISSION COMMENT: IN FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF SOME EWG REPS HELD IN ASYG HUMPHREY'S OFFICE P.M. OF JAN 9, CONSENSUS EMERGED THAT AT LEAST ONE MORE AD-70 REPORT --ALTHOUGH IN ABBREVIATED FORM--WAS DESIRABLE. IS WILL ISSUE PO PRESENTING THREE ALTERNATIVES TO DPC PERMREPS FOR THEIR MEETING ON JAN. 16. ONE OF THOSE ALTERNATIVES, WHICH EWG REPS AGREED SEEMED MOST APPROPRIATE, WILL SUGGEST SPRING REPORT MUCH SHORTER THAN THAT FOR 1974, SO AS TO AVOID DUPLICATING OTHER REPORTS GOING TO MINISTERS, BUT WHICH WILL PROVIDE MINISTERS WITH A BRIEF "STOCKTAKING" AS TO WHERE WE STAND VIS-A-VIS ORIGINAL AD-70 REPORT. MISSION WILL TRANSMIT TEXT WHEN RECEIVED.
END MISSION COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO00084
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750188/abbrzhmm.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 253207 (NOTAL) B. USNATO 6460 C. STATE 003477 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JANUARY 8 EWG MEETING: 1975 AD-70 SPRING REPORT (AGENDA ITEM IV)
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSNAVEUR

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006